



NEWS

LIVINGSTON PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

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Livingston Parish secures a record \$28.5 million in grants this year

LIVINGSTON – Livingston Parish will end the year with a record \$28.5 million in grants and allocations that will be spent to improve quality of life for residents in one of Louisiana's fastest-growing communities, Parish President Mike Grimmer has announced.

The awards make it possible for the government to fund a number of innovative projects, including an economic development strategy for the parish, a Veterans Memorial Plaza in Albany, an energy conservation plan for public facilities and vehicles, and the restoration of swamps to shore up Louisiana's coastline.

Millions of dollars also will be spent on beefing up infrastructure in what is now one of the fastest growing parishes in the state. Projects include expanding the courthouse, planning studies to explore the need for a regional airport and a Central connector highway, highway beautification and sewer upgrades.

Such projects are necessary to accommodate Livingston Parish's extensive growth. The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey indicates that 57% of the population growth in the Baton Rouge metropolitan region between 2007 and 2008 occurred in Livingston Parish. The state projects Livingston's population will climb to 242,780 – up from 109,030 – over the next two decades.

"The State of Louisiana's own forecast indicates Livingston Parish's population is going to more than double in 20 years," Grimmer says. "Our team right now is actively targeting grant money aimed at addressing the growth we've already experienced and preparing for what is to come, whether it be expanding infrastructure, enhancing public safety or meeting community needs."

Much of the funding will be spent on materials designed to improve public safety, including a pumper truck and other fire protection equipment, interoperable radios that allow first responders to communicate with one another in an emergency and generators for various agencies.

Livingston Parish also secured thousands of dollars to provide assistance to those in need. Partnering with Women Outreaching Women Inc., the parish will support an emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse, as well as new program aimed at preventing homelessness, securing housing for those displaced by emergencies and addressing childhood obesity. The parish also obtained grants for the Council on Aging Rural Transportation Program, the Maurepas Community Center, the Watson Community Center and the Livingston Activity Center.

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